

Applicants : James C. Rush et al  
Serial No. : 09/800,006  
Confirmation : 5256  
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086  
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**Remarks/Arguments:**

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

The Examiner's additional remarks and cited references have been received and carefully considered. Claims 76, 78, 100-115, and 119-120 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 94, 116, 121 and 141 have been amended.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's comments that claims 30-34, 79, 82-87, 89, 94, 123-130 and 132-145 remain allowed, and that claims 103-122 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Allowable claims 116 and 121 have been rewritten in independent form, and are now believed to be in condition for immediate allowance, along with claims 30-34, 79, 82-87, 89, 94, 123-130 and 132-145. Claims 94 and 141 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors noted during the preparation of the present Reply.

The Examiner rejected claims 76, 78 and 100-102 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Ludwig et al Patent 6,481,169. While Applicants believe that the subject claims are not anticipated by the Ludwig et al '169 reference, and that Applicants are in a position to swear behind the same, since the rejected claims have been canceled, the issue is now moot.

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Applicants have made a concerted effort to place this application in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that there are any additional informalities, a courtesy of a telephone call to Applicants' attorney would be appreciated.

Since all pending claims are deemed in condition for immediate allowance, a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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